

**AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims as follow:

1. (Original)A hot medicinal compress apparatus comprising a heater (2) and a cartridge (3) carrying a medicinal compress layer, characterized in that:

the heater (2) includes a heating element and a heat conducting tube (4) in which the heating element is mounted and at both ends of which a front round step member (10) and a rear round step member (10') having a through hole are respectively arranged; at another end of the front round step member (10), a washer and a demountable baffle ring (18) are provided and fixed by a screw nut (12), while at another end of the rear round step member (10'), a handle (1) is arranged in which a through hole is provided and on which a control switch is mounted; the heating element is connected with the control switch via the through holes of the rear round step member (10') and the handle (1); and

the cartridge (3) is comprised of:

a metal tube (17), two ends of which is plugged respectively on the front round step member (10) and the rear round step member (10'), and

a medicinal compress layer which is formed by medicine powder (8) wrapped in a liquid absorption soft material/cotton cloth (7) and which is wrapped around the metal tube (17).

2. (Original)The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the heat conducting tube (4) has a plurality of axial grooves on the outer wall thereof; the rear round step member (10') is a cylindrical body having at least one round step at each of its two ends, one end of which has two or more steps, the step with minimum profile lies on the most outer thereof and is fixed in the mounting hole at the front end of the handle (1); the step adjacent to the step 10'c is a square step, on which a rear baffle ring (18') having a foot rest is provided, and the rear baffle ring (18')

is an integrated body formed by a circular ring portion and a trapezoid portion wherein the trapezoid portion is the foot rest having a flat end at its lower end; another end of the rear round step member (10') has only one step which is connected and tightly fastened in the inner hole of one end of the heat conducting tube (4); the maximum diameter portion (10'd) of the rear round step member serves for supporting the cartridge (3); and the through hole of the rear round step member (10') is in communication with the through hole of the handle (1).

3. (Original)The apparatus as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the front round step member (10) has the same structure as the rear round step member (10') and is symmetrically mounted on the heat conducting tube; two or more steps are provided at the external end portion of the metal tube wherein the baffle ring (18) is arranged on the larger square step (10b), and screw threads are provided on the smaller round step (10c) for connection with the screw nut (12) so as to fasten the baffle ring; and the maximum diameter portion (10'd) of the front round step member serves for supporting the cartridge (3); another end of the front round step member (10) has only one step which is connected and fastened to the inner hole of another end of the heat conducting tube (4).

4. (Original)The apparatus as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that the front and rear round steps further have respective steps (10a, 10'a) larger than the square steps, for mounting a washer (11), the outer diameter of which is slightly larger than the maximum diameter portion of the rear round step member (10') and which serves as a position limiter to the metal tube (17) plugged on the maximum diameter portion of the step member to allow to leave a room between the metal tube (17) and the rear baffle ring (18'); the cartridge (3) has a length consistent with the the distance between the two ends of the heat conducting tube (4) plus the combined length of the maximum diameter portions of the front and rear round step members, i.e. the distance between

the two washers, the cavity diameter of the metal tube (17) and the diameter portions (10d, 10'd) of the front and rear round step members are devised to be spatially matched with each other to allow the flexible rotation of the cartridge (3) plugged on the front and rear round steps at the two ends of the heat conducting tube; and a sealing ring (20) is arranged between the baffle ring (18') and the washer.

5. (Original)The apparatus as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that the steps (10a, 10'a) and the steps (10b, 10'b) of the front and rear round step members have the same size and profile and they are manufactured integrally.

6. (Currently amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim ~~1 or 2 or 3 or 4~~, characterized in that the heating element is an electrothermal type heating element (5) which is mounted in the heat conducting tube (4), the electric wire passes through the though holes of the rear round step member (10') and the handle (1) to be connected with the power supply control switch (13).

7. (Currently amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim ~~1 or 2 or 3 or 4~~, characterized in that the heating element is a combustion gas type heating element (6) which is mounted in heat conducting tube (4), and its fittings pass through the though holes of the rear round step member (10') and the handle (1) to be connected with a combustion gas switch and electronic igniter (14).

8. (Currently amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim ~~1 or 2 or 3 or 4~~, characterized in that a layer of strong water absorption material/cotton (9) is arranged between the metal tube (17) and the medicinal compress layer.

9. (new) The apparatus as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the heating element is an electrothermal type heating element (5) which is mounted in the heat conducting tube (4), the electric wire passes through the though holes of the rear round step member (10') and the handle

(1) to be connected with the power supply control switch (13).

10. (new) The apparatus as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that the heating element is an electrothermal type heating element (5) which is mounted in the heat conducting tube (4), the electric wire passes through the though holes of the rear round step member (10') and the handle (1) to be connected with the power supply control switch (13).

11. (new) The apparatus as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that the heating element is an electrothermal type heating element (5) which is mounted in the heat conducting tube (4), the electric wire passes through the though holes of the rear round step member (10') and the handle (1) to be connected with the power supply control switch (13).

12. (new) The apparatus as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the heating element is a combustion gas type heating element (6) which is mounted in heat conducting tube (4), and its fittings pass through the though holes of the rear round step member (10') and the handle (1) to be connected with a combustion gas switch and electronic igniter (14).

13. (new) The apparatus as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that the heating element is a combustion gas type heating element (6) which is mounted in heat conducting tube (4), and its fittings pass through the though holes of the rear round step member (10') and the handle (1) to be connected with a combustion gas switch and electronic igniter (14).

14. (new) The apparatus as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that the heating element is a combustion gas type heating element (6) which is mounted in heat conducting tube (4), and its fittings pass through the though holes of the rear round step member (10') and the handle (1) to be connected with a combustion gas switch and electronic igniter (14).

15. (new) The apparatus as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that a layer of strong water

absorption material/cotton (9) is arranged between the metal tube (17) and the medicinal compress layer.

16. (new) The apparatus as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that a layer of strong water absorption material/cotton (9) is arranged between the metal tube (17) and the medicinal compress layer.

17. (new) The apparatus as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that a layer of strong water absorption material/cotton (9) is arranged between the metal tube (17) and the medicinal compress layer.